

Draft Meeting Notes
CALFED Bay-Delta Program Levee and Channel Technical Team
March 31, 1999 at 9:00 am in Room 1142 of the Resources Building

Attendance List:

Margit Aramburu, Delta Protection Commission
Bill Betchart, private consultant
Bill Bohnhoff, Matterhorn of Napa
Brian Campbell, East Bay Municipal Utility District
Rob Cooke, CALFED (chair)
Gil Cosio, Murray Burns and Kienlen
Rick Dreher, Corps of Engineers
Mike Hardesty, Reclamation District 2068 (Yolano)
Walt Hoppe, private citizen
Gwen Knittweis, CALFED
Ed Littrell, Dept of Fish and Game
Ulrich Luscher, Woodward Clyde Consulting Engineers
Ron Milligan, Corps of Engineers
Chris Neudeck, Kjeldsen Sinnock and Neudeck Inc.
Michael Norris, DWR Central District (minutes)
Lynn O'Leary, Corps of Engineers / CALFED
Michael Ramsbotham, Corps of Engineers / CALFED
Curt Schmutte, DWR Central District
Steve Shigematsu, Matterhorn of Napa
Stan Soliday, CALFED
Jim Starr, Dept of Fish and Game, Stockton
Gary Tilkian, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Steve Yaeger, Dept of Water Resources, Comprehensive Study
Phil Zeidman, Matterhorn of Napa
Tom Zuckerman, Central Delta Water Agency

Rob Cooke convened the meeting and had the group introduce themselves. Some new attendees included some consultants from Napa who work on flood control projects for agencies in that area. The meeting minutes from 2-24-99 CALFED Levee and Channel meeting were reviewed and approved with no changes.

Steve Yaeger led the discussion on the first agenda item dealing with the Comprehensive Study and passed out handouts prepared by his group. Steve noted that this effort started with the FEAT report where the recommendation was made to take a comprehensive look at all the streams together and how they interact. The study is looking at the 1983, 1986, 1995, and 1997 floods. They are using the "systems approach" for the Sacramento – San Joaquin system. There is topographic information available for the San Joaquin system for Friant Dam to Stockton. Also, the bathymetry for the 500-year flood will be flown along the San Joaquin system. There is already full topographic information for the Sacramento system up to 300-feet from the bank. All of this data will go into the model

runs. Steve noted the group is also directed by Congress to see how to make the system work better as well as do a comprehensive plan for each basin for structural and non-structural systems.

Tom Zuckerman asked about the reasons for selecting a 300-foot width from top of bank and Steve noted the monies available determined that there is enough to do an area of that width. There isn't enough money to do overbank flows or levee breaks for another year. Ron Milligan from the Corps also discussed the selection of the 300-foot width. Tom asked if the study would allow us to look at McCormack-Williamson Tract and how that might be used in the system and Steve said not at this time although he is talking to Stein Buer from CALFED about this option. Curt Schmutte asked if the Delta was part of the comprehensive study and Steve said the wording in the task list would include the Delta although that group was not trying to duplicate what CALFED is doing. Rob Cooke asked Steve if the data will be available on a web site and Steve explained they're trying to figure out the best way to handle that. Gil Cosio noted the data is so extensive that it is difficult for a PC to handle it. Michael Ramsbotham asked about gaining additional geotechnical information about levees from the study and Ron Milligan noted it may come down to how much we can get for the dollars available. It may turn out that we concentrate on areas where we have foundation or seepage problems. Some information from the Comprehensive Study is available on CDs.

Gwen Knittweis led the discussion on the next agenda item dealing with North Delta flood control issues and showed various overheads. One overhead was for the various ongoing North Delta efforts such as the South Sacramento County Streams Project, the Sacramento County Planning Effort, the Mokelumne River Feasibility Study, the Cosumnes River Feasibility Study, and the CALFED Program Actions. Rob Cooke mentioned that the recurrence interval for CALFED's North Delta flood control study is the 100-year flood. Tom Zuckerman noted that the Laguna flood study assumed that certain levees downstream would fail. When one Reclamation District downstream did work on their levees, Laguna residents complained because it violated the study conditions. Curt Schmutte discussed how one study ended at Potato Slough when it should have extended further. Gwen discussed the Mokelumne and Cosumnes studies which are "designated actions" under the Category III process. There was a question from Bill Betchart about how the designated actions are selected for funding and Rob and Lynn O'Leary discussed how the "integration panel" meets to select these studies.

Gwen discussed solution ideas and the different modeling runs and assumptions that are being done for the North Delta flood control topic. Stan Soliday from CALFED discussed the details of run "11E" that is being done by the consulting firm of Ensign and Buckley. The handouts show the potential overtopping that can occur from this run. Rob discussed how dredging actions in run "4c" assume they'll dredge from -10 feet to -20 feet and there may be another run to see what happens at -15 feet if they decide to select a midway point for dredging.

Chris Neudeck discussed how the flood profiles for Tyler Island were inaccurate from the older study and it was apparently a lot of straight line approximations. Rob discussed

how newer data is being used.

Gwen led the discussion on the next agenda item dealing with the Suisun Marsh Levees Investigation. Gwen discussed the modeling efforts that are underway. If levees are breached, what will be the water quality benefits? Gwen discussed the one-dimensional modeling that DWR has used in the past and how it is necessary to use a higher dimensional model. The consulting firm of RMA has been selected to do this new modeling. Curt Schmutte asked questions about runs "2" and "3" from the overheads and Jim Starr noted they were selected based on recommendations from Chris Enright from DWR's ESO office. Curt thought these runs were related to the "goals" report.

Rob led the discussion on the next agenda item dealing with the EIR/EIS schedule. Rob has not received a lot of comments on the CALFED levees report and he asked for comments by 5-4-99.

Rob led the discussion on the next agenda item dealing with the State Fiscal Year 1999-2000 levee funding status. Because we don't have Corps funding at this time, Rob showed another "interim" plan that still shows a total of \$33 million for the program but only \$5 million federal dollars. Rob discussed other funding actions including Assemblyman Machado's proposed bill (AB1521), a budget change proposal (BCP) for \$25 million, and a proposed water bond for \$50 million for two years.

Rob led the discussion on the next agenda item dealing with the "bundling" of CALFED actions. The levee team has actions 14, 24, 27, 28, 29, and 30 and most of the bundles that affect the levee group are in the "Delta-wide" bundle. Margit Aramburu wondered if only the bundled actions could be funded in the future or whether other actions that are not in the bundles could be funded through the CALFED process. Tom Zuckerman was worried about the ongoing levee program getting slowed down because of it getting bundled in with other actions. As Tom put it, the federal monies are good but they come with requirements and we should not put all of our eggs into the CALFED basket.

Gwen led the discussion on the next agenda item dealing with the permit coordination efforts. Contracts are finalized and need to be signed. Gwen discussed the deadline for Category III monies being spent. One general problem in administering Cat III grant monies is that agencies have to have authorization to receive federal monies. Ulrich Luscher asked if there were any other permitting issues under discussion besides dredging. Chris Neudeck noted that levee work itself is a permit issue. However, revised "work windows" because of the listing of the steelhead will limit this permitting action.

Under "Other Issues", Ed Littrell discussed a proposed Category III channel island project in the vicinity of Webb Tract and Little Tinsley Island. Also, the "levee associated vegetation" maps that are prepared for the various Reclamation Districts are available. This information includes a levee log of the different vegetation types.

Rob scheduled the next meeting of the CALFED Levee and Channel Technical Team for Thursday April 29, 1999 from 9-12.

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